



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee**

**March 17, 2014**

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA  
860-509-7101**

**House Bill 5543 - An Act Concerning Water Quality**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information regarding House Bill 5543.

Section 1: The DPH supports defining “change in use” and has been working with the water industry to streamline and improve the efficiency of the change in use permitting process. However, the proposed changes would be better implemented through regulation rather than a change in statute. Coincidentally, the Department is currently in the process of drafting regulations regarding change in use in response to Governor’s Executive Order No. 37. The Department is willing to work with stakeholders, to the extent possible, to ensure that the proposed changes outlined in House Bill 5543 are addressed.

Section 2: The DPH recognizes that the ideas presented regarding Licensed Water Professionals are valuable. However, additional discussion is needed as there will be a significant unbudgeted fiscal impact associated with implementing a new licensure program. An evaluation of the resources required to implement and manage the proposed program for Licensed Water Professionals is necessary prior to moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department’s views on this bill.